

## HOUSE RESOLUTION 52

By Sexton

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Plateau Longbeards upon their being recognized as the Best JAKES Event in America by the National Wild Turkey Federation.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those exemplary wildlife habitat conservation organizations that have made significant contributions, through an abiding commitment to excellence, to their respective communities and to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such exemplary organization is the Plateau Longbeards Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, located in Crossville, which was recently honored as Best JAKES Event in America by the National Wild Turkey Federation; and

WHEREAS, a nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving the wild turkey and preserving our hunting heritage, the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) is the leader in upland wildlife habitat conservation in North America; and

WHEREAS, through dynamic partnerships with state, federal, and provincial wildlife agencies, the NWTF and its members have helped restore wild turkey populations throughout North America, spending more than \$331 million to conserve 16 million acres of habitat; wild turkeys and hundreds of other species of upland wildlife, including quail, deer, grouse, pheasant, and songbirds, benefit from this improved habitat; and

WHEREAS, the NWTF also brings new conservationists and hunters into the fold through outdoor education events and its JAKES (Juniors Acquiring Knowledge, Ethics, and Sportsmanship) and Xtreme JAKES youth outreach programs; and'

WHEREAS, the JAKES program was founded as a means to provide children an opportunity to explore their outdoor world through hundreds of fun-filled events held across North America; and

WHEREAS, the Plateau Longbeards Chapter of Crossville worked with a wide range of partners, including the Tennessee National Guard, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Association, U.S. Forestry Service, and Tennessee State Parks to create a unique event for the 367 children participating in their JAKES event, with a total attendance of approximately 1,000 people, including staff and volunteers; and

WHEREAS, the Plateau Longbeards provided a wide range of educational, hands-on activities, including fishing, archery, shotguns, air rifles, field craft, turkey calling, paintball, safety courses, and a nature trail; and

WHEREAS, the outstanding chapter officers of the Plateau Longbeards, whose dedicated efforts proved invaluable to the great success of this year's JAKES event are: President Robin Jernigan, Vice President James Wattenbarger, Secretary Violet Whittenburg, Treasurer Tracy Melton, and JAKES Coordinator Max Norrod; and

WHEREAS, to be specially commended for his peerless leadership is Charlie Tollett, Regional Director for the Middle Tennessee National Wild Turkey Federation; and

WHEREAS, the following JAKES Committee Members dedicated countless hours to make this year's outstanding JAKES event possible: Mickey Griffin, Jeff Irvin, Cody Tolley, Wade Hassler, Fred Peterson, Mike Davis, Jon Hale, Mike Whittenburg, Brandon Elmore, Bubba Reams, Eric Davis, Kevin Kling, Ernie Young, Jerry Scoggins, Kyle Jackson, Mark Melton, and Kevin Oakes; and

WHEREAS, JAKES Day is but one of the many programs hosted each year by the Plateau Longbeards; other events hosted by the chapter are: JAKES Turkey Hunt (for children who have never harvested a turkey), JAKES Dove Shoot (for children), Wheelin' Sportsmen Turkey Hunt (for disabled hunters who can no longer hunt without assistance), Wheelin' Sportsmen Fishing Derby, Bubba Fest, and the annual City of Crossville Christmas Parade; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the members of this body pause to recognize and commend the Plateau Longbeards for their laudable achievements in preserving our hunting heritage; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and congratulate the Plateau Longbeards upon their being recognized as the Best JAKES Event in America by the National Wild Turkey Federation, and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.